



JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING
CAMP H. M. SMITH, HAWAII 96861-5025

CASE 1076-0-01

NARRATIVE

ON 6 MARCH 1968, CORPORAL GARY L. COLOMBO WAS ONE OF FOUR CREWMEMBERS ABOARD A CH-46A HELICOPTER (SERIAL NUMBER 151943) WHICH CRASHED OFFSHORE IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES YD396678, APPROXIMATELY 15 KILOMETERS NORTH-NORTHEAST OF QUANG TRI AND 3 KILOMETERS EAST OF TUONG VAN THUONG, QUANG TRI PROVINCE. SEARCH AND RESCUE FORCES RESCUED THREE OF THE CREWMEMBERS. ONE OF THE SURVIVORS REPORTED HE LAST SAW CORPORAL COLOMBO ATTEMPTING TO LEAVE THE HELICOPTER THROUGH THE RIGHT FRONT ENTRANCE HATCH.

PERTINENT DATA ARE AS FOLLOWS:

NAME: COLOMBO, GARY LEWIS
RANK: CORPORAL, U.S. MARINE CORPS
DATE OF BIRTH: 6 SEPTEMBER 1946
RACE: CAUCASIAN
HEIGHT: 1.70 METERS
WEIGHT: 68.4 KILOGRAMS
HAIR: BLACK
EYES: BROWN

Passed to officials of the
Vietnamese government during a
technical meeting

21 JUL 1993

JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING
BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 16 AUGUST 1993

BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

REFNO: 1077 (ACCNO 5547)
Name: LOPEZ, ROBERT (NMN)

Status: (A) DEAD BODY NOT RECOVERED
Date Status assigned: 15 Jun 1976

Nationality	AMERICAN	Race	CAUCASIAN	Blood Chit	\$
Service	ARMY	Sex	MALE	Blood type	A #
Grade	O5	Hair	BROWN	Complexion	#
SSAN		Eyes	BROWN	Weapon	#
Serial No	DATA	Height	71 in / 1.80 mtrs	Weapon No	#
Birth date		Weight	192 lb / 87.0 kg	Duty pos	PASSENGER
Home State	WASHINGTON	Religion	PROTESTANT	PW Camp	\$

SITE INFORMATION

INCIDENT LOCATION (0)

Site Type: CRASH SITE
UTM: 48QYC456958
Lat/Long: 161354N / 1071753E
Country: SOUTH VIETNAM
Military Region: 1
Mission Province: THUA THIEN-HUE
(formerly): QUANG NAM
Mission District: A LUOI
Mission Date: 6 Mar 1968
Mission Category: 3
Local Analysis: Near populated area.

JTF-FA ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Folders Passed: Mar 92
Investigations: Jun 93
Surveys: Jun 93
Vessey Case: NO
Case type: CRASH SITE
Survivability: (5) In the aircraft at the time of the crash

VEHICLE DATA

Vehicle Type: CH46A	Serial: 151909
Crash Type: Enemy action	Engine Type: T58GE
Call Sign: YW-17	1 Serial: #
Year: \$	2 Serial: #

SPECIAL CHARACTER KEY

= Item has been researched but data cannot be obtained.
\$ = Item is not applicable to this case.
@ or Blank = Data for item is unknown or not available.

JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING
BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 16 AUGUST 1993

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Name: — NAME — Date Status assigned: 15 Jun 1976

Nationality	AMERICAN	Race	CAUCASIAN	Blood Chit	#
Service	MARINE CORPS	Sex	MALE	Blood type	A #
Grade	04	Hair	BROWN	Complexion	RUDDY
SSAN		Eyes	BROWN	Weapon	#
Serial No	DATA	Height	72 in / 1.83 mtrs	Weapon No	#
Birth date		Weight	170 lb / 77.0 kg	Duty pos	PILOT
Home State		Religion	PROTESTANT	PW Camp	\$

===== SITE INFORMATION =====

INCIDENT LOCATION (0)

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UTM: 48QYC456958
Lat/Long: 161354N / 1071753E
Country: SOUTH VIETNAM
Military Region: 1
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=== CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS ===

2 April 1976

ON 6 MAR 68 — NAME — LTC ROBERT (NMN) LOPEZ, PASSENGER, WERE ABOARD A CH46A HELICOPTER, (BUNO #151909, CALL SIGN YANKEE WHISKEY ONE SEVEN), AS LEAD ACFT IN A FLIGHT OF TWO, IN COMPANY WITH SEVERAL OTHER SUPPORT ACFT ON AN INSERTION MISSION IN SOUTH VIETNAM, WHILE HOVERING ABOVE AN EIGHTY FOOT CANOPY TO INSERT A SIXMAN RECONNAISSANCE TEAM. THE AIRCRAFT RECEIVED MODERATE SMALL ARMS FIRE AND BEGAN SETTLING. THE AIRCRAFT CONTINUED ITS DESCENT UNTIL THE ROTOR BLADES STRUCK THE TREES, AND THEN THE AIRCRAFT TWISTED AND FELL, COMING TO REST ON THE RIGHT SIDE IN A NOSE-LOW ATTITUDE IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES YC 456 958.

FOLLOWING THE CRASH OF THE HELICOPTER, BOTH — NAME — AND THE CO-PILOT WERE HELPLESSLY TRAPPED IN THE TWISTED WRECKAGE OF THE COCKPIT. THE PERSONNEL WHO WERE ABLE TO GET OUT OF THE BURNING AIRCRAFT SUCCEEDED IN FREEING THE CO-PILOT. — NAME — WAS UNCONSCIOUS AND TRAPPED ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE COCKPIT. EVERY EFFORT TO FREE HIM WAS TO NO AVAIL. LTC LOPEZ APPEARED TO BE TRAPPED BETWEEN THE AIRCRAFT AND THE GROUND AND EVERY EFFORT TO FREE HIM WAS USELESS. ONCE THE FLAMES REACHED THE COCKPIT AND THE AMMUNITION STARTED TO EXPLODE, THE MEN WERE FORCED TO ABANDON THEIR RESCUE EFFORTS.

WITHIN ABOUT THIRTY SECONDS, THE AIRCRAFT EXPLODED AND WAS COMPLETELY CONSUMED BY FIRE. A SHORT WHILE LATER THE SURVIVORS WERE EXTRACTED BY RESCUE HELICOPTERS AND EVACUATED. A RECOVERY TEAM ENTERED THE CRASH SITE AREA ABOUT TWO HOURS FOLLOWING THE INCIDENT. THE REMAINS OF ONE PASSENGER BELIEVED TO BE LTC LOPEZ WERE FOUND. HOWEVER, THE BODY WAS CHARRED BEYOND RECOGNITION AND IT WAS DECIDED NOT TO ATTEMPT RECOVERY OF THE HEAD FOR IDENTIFICATION. THE OTHER REMAINS WERE APPARENTLY DESTROYED BY THE FIRE AND EXPLOSIONS. THE OTHER MEN REPORTED MISSING AS A RESULT OF THE CRASH WERE INDIGENOUS PERSONNEL (NAMES UNKNOWN). (REF 1, 2 & 3)

SOURCE REPORTS HEARSAY INFORMATION OF TWO SKELETAL REMAINS BEING BURIED AT A HELICOPTER CRASHSITE SOMEWHERE IN THE VICINITY OF TA BAT VILLAGE (YC 4195). THIS POSSIBLY CORRELATES TO — NAME — AND LTC ROBERT LOPEZ. (REF 4)

DURING THE EXISTENCE OF JCRC, THE HOSTILE THREAT IN THE AREA PRECLUDED ANY VISITS TO OR GROUND INSPECTIONS OF THE SITES INVOLVED IN THIS CASE. DETAILS OF THIS CASE WAS GIVEN TO THE TWO-PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION. LTC LOPEZ AND — NAME — ARE CURRENTLY CARRIED IN THE PRESUMPTIVE STATUS OF DEAD, REMAINS NONRECOVERABLE.

CASE: 1077

=== REFERENCES ===

2 April 1976

REFERENCES: <1> RPT, MED HEL SOD-165 MAG, 1ST MAW, 21 MAR 68. <2> LTR, ACT CDR USMC, 15 APR 68. <3> LOG, 5TH SFGA (PHU DUNG CASUALTIES), AS OF 68. <4> REFCON DATA BASE: T82-021. <5> CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH 240354Z JUL 93.

=== NEGOTIATION ACTIONS ===

2 April 1992

CASE NARRATIVE PASSED TO THE VIETNAMESE DURING THE 30 MARCH 1992 TECHNICAL MEETING IN HANOI.

=== ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUALS ===

2 April 1976

ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUALS: — NAME — — DATA — AND ROBERT (NMN) LOPEZ 1077

=== MAJOR COORDINATE CHANGE ===

9 April 1976

CHG INCIDENT LOCA FM ZB178 458 TO YC 456 958 BASED ON 5TH SFGA (PHU DUNG CASUALTIES).

=== JOINT INVESTIGATION, SURVEY OR EXCAVATION ===

12 August 1993

ON 2 JUL 93, IE4 TRAVELLED TO PHU THUONG VILLAGE, THUA THIEN-HUE PROVINCE TO INVESTIGATE CASE 1077. IE4 INTERVIEWED ONE WITNESS THAT PROVIDED FIRST-HAND INFORMATION ON A CRASH SITE THAT PROBABLY CORRELATES TO CASE 1077. A SURVEY OF THE CRASH SITE WAS CONDUCTED AND NO PERSONAL EFFECTS WERE IDENTIFIED, ONE PIECE OF REMAINS WAS RECOVERED AND NUMEROUS PIECES OF WRECKAGE WERE VIEWED AND PHOTOGRAPHED AT THE SITE. THE UPPER PORTION OF A FLIGHT HELMET AND A PORTION OF AN M-16 RIFLE BUTT WAS ALSO FOUND. (REF 5)

JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING
BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 20 OCTOBER 1993

===== BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION =====

REFNO: 1078-0-02 (ACCNO 0056) Status: (T) RELEASED
Name: DAVIS, THOMAS JAMES Date Status assigned: 16 Mar 1973

Nationality	AMERICAN	Race	NEGROID	Blood Chit	\$
Service	ARMY	Sex	MALE	Blood type	# #
Grade	E5	Hair	BLACK	Complexion	DARK
SSAN	DATA	Eyes	BROWN	Weapon	#
Serial No	67109430	Height	69 in / 1.75 mtrs	Weapon No	#
Birth date	30 Sep 1947	Weight	150 lb / 68.0 kg	Duty pos	RIFLEMAN
Home State	ALABAMA	Religion	PROTESTANT	PW Camp	\$

===== SITE INFORMATION =====

INCIDENT LOCATION (0)

Site Type: GROUND SITE
UTM: 49PBT085295
Lat/Long: 153740N / 1081651E
Country: SOUTH VIETNAM
Military Region: 1
Mission Province: QUANG NAM-DA NANG
(formerly):
Mission District: THANG BINH
Mission Date: 11 Mar 1968
Mission Category: 3
Local Analysis: None.

===== JTF-FA ACTIVITY SUMMARY =====

Investigations: Aug 93
Surveys: Aug 93
Vessey Case: NO

===== VEHICLE DATA =====

Vehicle Type:	GRND	Serial:	\$
Crash Type:	None	Engine Type:	\$
Call Sign:	\$	1 Serial:	\$
Year:	\$	2 Serial:	\$

===== SPECIAL CHARACTER KEY =====

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